

The 15th Annual Black History Program Honorees

On February 23rd the Louisville Metro Council honored the following individuals for their contributions to their communities.



District 1 John Cole III

The eighth sibling of Roberta and John Cole, upon arrival of his first day at home, John was given a family name of “Chuckie” by one of his parent’s closet friends. Being a part of a Southwick project family grounded the value of being a nurturing community member in which he acquired a reputation as a fighter to protect others and one who had a magnetic personality. During this time, his destiny vision as a strong community protector began.

Mr. Cole is a 1976 graduate of Central High School, received vocational training at Jefferson State Vocational School and began his distinguish trade at Carpenter Union Local 64. He became a lead carpenter for Martin and Martin Flooring Company and later founded DC Flooring Company; thus becoming an entrepreneur who began training and hiring those in need.

His memories and experiences drive his deep desire to stamp a positive influence in order to return the West End culture to respectability. In November 2006 Cole’s Place was welcomed into the community. Under his commitment of time, efforts and finances, Cole’s Place evolved as a vehicle to energize the well-being of West End residents. He places emphasis on his community’s family needs by making strong organizational and residential connections which lead to productive relationships. These relationships include individual, political, religious, and educational leadership bonds. His works have given him the respect of being recognized as the “West End Black Mayor”.

During the past years, Mr. Cole has received numerous and his mission is helping others to help themselves to break down the destructive stressors plaguing too many angry young boys and men and other distraught residents in and outside the West End community. Mr. Cole continues to hammer his leadership character as a community carpenter builder who challenges others to do the right thing in order to build positive stressors within their community.



District 2 Emma Fresh Jackson

A Louisville native, born and raised in the Fort Hill community where she shared many happy days with her sisters & brothers; a resident of Newburg since 1978; graduated from DuPont Manual High School in 1967; attends St Stephen Baptist Church and is a retiree from Chase Bank, after forty-one years of service.

As a member of the Jolly Joyful Seniors, Emma enjoys volunteering at the Newburg Community Center, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) and serves as Newburg's representative for Louisville Metro's monthly triad meetings, which supports working together to better service and keep seniors informed in making Louisville a friendly city in the areas of housing, transportation, community support and health service. She also serves as the Ambassador for Simmons College of Kentucky sharing the importance of supporting HBCU's and higher education.

Emma enjoys traveling and meeting people; however, recognizes that at the end of the day life is all about having purpose. She says, "Reaching out to others and giving back to my community gives me that sense of purpose."



District 3 Ruby Hyde

Ursuline Associate Ruby Hyde is a true mover and shaker who has a passion for improving underserved communities.

She is the eighth of nine children, spent her childhood in the Smoketown neighborhood; and, attended St. Peter Claver School where she was first introduced to the Ursuline Sisters. Her mother, an active worker in the community and church; and, Ursuline Sister Inez Staeuble are credited with being her most significant mentors helping to mold and shape the fiber of her being for helping others.

She has received numerous awards and recognitions and has been a major influential contributor to the Smoketown, California and Shelby Park neighborhoods' redevelopment and economic plans; is founder of Smoketown Pride and Heritage Homecoming Festival; organizer of the first Southwick Festival and assisted in the Newburg, Berrytown and Griffytown festivals.

Ms. Hyde feels called to reach out to those who are hurting and those who are falling through the cracks and is especially committed to helping young women who have little support. This is evident in one of her current ministries which is volunteering at Wayside Christian Mission.



District 4 Pamela Haines

Pamela Haines, one of 12 children, who learned to cook by “doing”. Her family had to make the most of their limited resources, and she said you simply cooked with what you had, whatever that may be.

Haines’ journey in food took place on a road with numerous twists and turns, from Popeye’s to Taco Bell to the position as food and beverage manager for Courtyard by Marriott. Like most trips, there was a detour. In her case, it was working in financing for a car lot.

This is where fate, talent and burning desire led her. “I was always cooking something when I worked at the car lot. Before I made a cobbler for one of the employees, we ate some of the peaches. They were so sweet and juicy. That’s when they started calling me Sweet Peaches. Plus, I’m sweet,”

Haines opened Sweet Peaches across the street from the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in February 2014. The west Louisville native says she wants to help solidify a sense of community in the Russell neighbor. She is community focused and has formed many partnerships to help her neighborhood, including one with the Cordish Group to donate movie equipment and a popcorn machine for free family-friendly nights in the vacant lot next to Sweet Peaches. After noticing that many students were not attending school because they were embarrassed that their clothing was not clean and through a generous donor, she started Fresh Start where children can wash and sometimes trade their clothing for newer ones. Fresh Start has a reading center and space for area residents to host poetry slams. On any given day you can see a large blackboard that says “looking for 12 good men”, as she knows many men in the area, for whatever reason, cannot find a job; therefore, she uses resources at her disposal to assist them in finding employment.

“It’s not just a restaurant,” says Haines, who’s pursuing a Ph.D. in conflict management at Sullivan University; “it’s a place you can come if you need something.



District 5 Dave Christopher

Dave W. Christopher Sr. is a web designer, IT professional, and entrepreneur from Gary, IN who relocated to Louisville KY in 2000 to gain custody of his 11-year-old son. It was as a single father that Dave began to understand some of the obstacles that young people were facing and also got his first revelation about how transformative the power of music can be. After four years of employment with UPS, Dave made the bold decision to leave UPS and start his first business, Tekni Solutions.

Currently, Dave is the Executive Director and co-founder of [A.M.P.E.D., the Academy of Music Production Education and Development](#) . A.M.P.E.D. is a non-profit, 501C3 youth program that focuses on music and aims to provide a safe and productive environment for youth to explore their creativity through music. Participants receive hands on training of the music industry through production, distribution and marketing; in addition to having the opportunity to learn all aspects of the music industry from song writing

In addition to his past military career in the United States Air Force, Dave holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice, is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a recipient of numerous community awards. Dave is married with three children.

Dave believes that all of our youth are good, intelligent, and capable; and, if given the opportunity, tools, resources, and support can succeed at whatever level they choose.



District 6 CJ Fletcher

Artist and activist, C.J. Fletcher has dedicated herself to bringing beauty to the world and to Louisville. Self-taught and earning a fine arts degree with distinction in 1989, Fletcher has poured her soul into her artwork. Masterfully employing color and pattern, Fletcher depicts [the harmony and peace she sees in life, exploring the unifying power of creativity in acclaimed series like her 'The Color of Music' and African identity in works like 'Stepping Out'. Fletcher's art has found audiences across America, and won her critical acclaim; a featured artist at Art Expo Atlanta and winner of Today's Woman's "Most Admired in the Arts" category.

C.J. Fletcher, however, has never forgotten her community. Fletcher donates much of her work to charity and volunteers to help teach and coordinate art appreciation for at-risk children at local community centers. Spearheading initiatives like the Bridge Kids Project and helping to revitalize neighborhoods through programs like "Blight Out & Brighten Up", Fletcher works tirelessly to empower Louisville to creativity through art. Fletcher's work has won her awards from Alpha Kappa Alpha, the LINKS Community Service Award, and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage Sprit Award *inter alia*; through her work at Bridge Kids and painting Career, Fletcher strives to make Louisville a better place to live.



District 7 Rob King III

Rob King has been a Northwestern Mutual Financial Advisor for 12 years and has lived in Louisville for the majority of his life. He is a proud graduate of DuPont Manual High School, starting his career after graduating from Centre College with a degree in Economics.

Rob has served the community in many capacities performing various roles with the Fund for the Arts, including Past Chairman of NeXt! and co-founder of the “35 under 35” Leadership Campaign; served as Board Member of the Louisville Ballet, where he held many roles including the Treasurer and Vice President; the Centre College Alumni Board and was named Centre College’s Young Associate of the Year in 2013 and the Scout Reach Board for the Boy Scouts of America . He was recognized by NFocus magazine as one of Louisville’s “New faces of Philanthropy “in 2012.

Rob was a member of the 2013 Leadership Louisville Ignite Class and worked jointly with the Kids Center for Pediatric Therapies. Currently Rob serves as a board member of the Crimson Mission which helps to support DuPont Manual High School.



District 8 Anthony Raspberry

A life-long Louisvillian and proud resident of the Highlands, Anthony Raspberry is honored to represent the African-American community of District 8. After receiving his undergraduate degree and MBA from Bellarmine University, he began an entrepreneurial career in startups and is currently a commercial and residential realtor with Gant Hill and Associates. His commitment to housing stems from his belief that stable homes make stronger neighborhoods and stronger cities.

Having also made a name for himself as a professional photographer, Anthony's photography portfolio includes fashion, entertainment, and gourmet food. Most notably, he was commissioned by the city of Louisville to capture its unique culinary scene; this work has been featured in national and international marketing campaigns promoting tourism for the city.

Also a musician, Anthony is the front man of Jenna Dean. This past fall marked the release of their latest song "Prayer," which has become a call for unity and togetherness during these times of political divisiveness.

Anthony is married to Brigitte Taylor, the assistant general manager of District 8's most iconic restaurant, Jack Fry's. They welcomed daughter Elizabeth this past December. In their free time, they can be seen dining at one of the many unique restaurants in the Highlands, frequenting the Douglass Loop Farmer's Market, and playing tennis and running the trails at Cherokee Park.



District 9 Professor Lisa H. Nicholson

Over the past 16 years, Lisa H. Nicholson has established herself as a corporate law scholar, a highly acclaimed teacher, a concerned citizen and an engaged public intellectual.

Professor Nicholson joined the law faculty at the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law in 2000 following seven years of combined securities and commercial litigation experience in New York. Her teaching and research interests continue to concentrate on issues related to corporate law and securities regulation, including the accountability of corporate actors for corporate wrongdoing and the professional responsibility of lawyers in these settings, and, her work has appeared in numerous leading law journals. The hallmark of Professor Nicholson's work is inclusion, as she is deeply committed to breaking down barriers for her students and the displaced in our community and beyond.

Professor Nicholson has been involved in a number of community service initiatives, including working as a member of the Jefferson County Chapter of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, a member of the Economic Justice Committee of KFTC's Jefferson County Chapter and a volunteer and contributor to its Vision Smoketown Project. Professor Nicholson also was invited to become a member of the Police Initiatives WorkGroup, and subsequently an Implementation Team Member for Phase II of "Louisville's Blueprint for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative," through the Metro Louisville Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods.

Professor Nicholson's teaching, scholarship and community service led to her nomination and receipt of the University's "Presidential Exemplary Multicultural Teaching Award." This award, one of the University's highest academic honors, was given in recognition of her emphasis on multicultural and global perspectives and inclusion.



District 10 Carolyn Miller-Cooper

Carolyn Miller-Cooper was the Executive Director of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission until her death on December 30.

A senior member of Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer's administration, Carolyn had served the city of Louisville in an official capacity for more than 20 years, and was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2014.

In addition to her dedication to the protection of all human rights, Carolyn was a loving mother to Rachel and a devoted friend and colleague to many.

She also had served on the board of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition and as co-chair of the Fair Housing Coalition. A member of the Kentucky and Louisville Bar Associations, she attended the University of Kentucky College of Law and after graduation earned a Master of Law degree at the McGeorge School of Law.

Her daughter, Rachel Cooper accepted the award on her behalf.



District 11Azell Jackson

Azell Jackson grew up in the Newburg area, is the oldest of three children. His father past away when he was a young child but he had the good fortune to be raised by his mother and step-father and has spent his entire life in a church where he acquired good family values that taught the importance of having a hard work ethic.

Azell graduated from Marion C. Moore High School where he played basketball and was a member of the Junior ROTC during all four years. After graduating from high school he entered into the military, serving a tour in the Army, after which he returned to Louisville and began working for the Navy as an electrician while earning his degree in Electronics from Louisville Technical Institute.

His most memorable moments are when he was to blessed to be a father and when he was hired by the City Of Louisville to be a Louisville Metro Police Officer. As a Metro Police Officer he excelled in serving in numerous positions such as being a part of the drug enforcement task force and traffic enforcement and was an officer during the City-County merger, retiring after 22 years of service.

After retirement, Azell was looking for other ways in which to help people in Louisville. His heart led him in the direction of furthering his education by becoming a licensed loan originator so he could help put people and families into their first new home. Azell describes his company as one of the finest privately owned Mortgage Companies in Louisville. Working at Century Mortgage Company, is where he has an opportunity to see the joy on the faces of first time homeowners.



District 12 Wanda Ramsey

Wanda D. Ramsey has a long history of service and uses both her professional and personal talents to enrich her community.

As a Strategic Initiatives Leader for the Plastics Center of Excellence at GE Appliances, Wanda develops and executes strategic and tactical initiatives that improve the Plastics Injection Molding business. Through her work with at GE Appliances, she has volunteered with the African American Forum Leadership Team as the Networking & Exposure Lead which provides programming, seminars, and conferences to increase exposure and networking both within and external to the GE Appliances community. She also participates in GE's Women's Network on their Women in Supply Chain Leadership team.

Ms. Ramsey serves as the Executive Director, of Sponsor 4 Success, a non-profit organization in Louisville that helps to improve living and economic conditions in poor neighborhoods in Louisville; and has served on the Chestnut Street Family YMCA Board of Directors since 2015 taking on a variety of roles.

Wanda is proud of her role as the Community Service Committee Chair with Zeta Phi Beat Sorority in the Beta Alpha Xi Zeta Graduate Chapter of Louisville leading a committee of six women in facilitating programs and services that support her Sorority's national service program initiatives with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Wanda believes that you can either sit on the sidelines and expect someone else to improve the things going on in the world or you can pour your time, talent and abilities into those concerns.



District 13 Spencer Concrete Services, Inc.

In the early 70's Floyd Spencer, while working hard at The Ford Automotive Plant, was asked by one of his brothers to help on a weekend concrete job to make some extra bucks. With lively personalities and beautiful quality work, their work began to snowball. Roughly 10 years and a lot of double shifts later, Floyd had a choice to make: either quit the concrete side and stay at Ford, living safe and sound; or, take a chance to start his own business. Encouraged by his father, Floyd quit Ford and began to make the necessary arrangements to begin his family owned and operated business, Spencer Concrete Services Inc. His younger brother got on board soon after to start driving the concrete truck.

As time passed, Floyd had 7 children, 3 of which were boys. All of whom were brought to work to help instill a good work ethic from an early age, which they still have to this day. His three boys became men and after learning the ropes, started to run their very own crews. The youngest ran the estimates; scheduling jobs and helping his brothers complete their family work.

Many members of the family have come through the company, especially the youth for their summer job receiving raining on what hard work is while learning a stable trade in the process.

While Spencer Concrete was started by a man who saw he could achieve greatness; it was sustained by the family being together and everyone doing their part to keep the company as their first priority. He showed his sons key ways of being not just a boss but instead a great leader. Things like: 'first to come, last to leave,' 'Sometimes you have to do the undesirable things that comes with being the boss.' And of course, 'As you work through the hard and ugly things in life, so too shall you reap the reward.'



District 14 Loletha Cumings

Loletha was born in Dothan, Alabama and grew up in Colombia, Alabama. She graduated from Tuskegee Institute University and began her teaching career in Troy, Alabama.

She has been married to her elementary school sweetheart, Lamar, for sixty-four years and they have four children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her husband's 33 year military career allowed Loletha the opportunity to travel with him overseas. The family relocated from Fort Knox, his last duty station, to Louisville and quickly settled and became engaged in the local community.

Loletha taught school for thirty-five years, completing her last 23 years of service with the Fort Knox Dependent Schools. Upon her retirement from the Fort Knox Schools, she joined the GED program in Jefferson County, teaching students in that program for seven years.

She is a member of several non-profit organizations; served as treasurer for the Valley Women's club for twelve year and is currently their Parliamentary. She has been active with the DAV Auxiliary #6 where she has served as secretary for six years and Commander for ten years.

Loletha enjoys reading and cross-word puzzles and states that her greatest love is for God, family & friend.

Loletha wants to thank Councilwoman Fowler for considering her for this award. Councilwoman Fowler accepted the award on her behalf.



District 15 James Grant

James Grant has been married for thirty-five years, the father of three children and six grandchildren and attends Burnett Avenue Baptist Church where he serves as Vice-President of the Deacons. He also sings with the men's choir, drives the church van when needed and does mission work for Project Warm and Wayside Mission.

James is a thirty-six year employee of Baptist Health Louisville currently in their Engineering Department. He has been honored as Baptist Louisville Employee of the Year, selected a Champion for always putting patients, visitors and his fellow employees first; serves as co-captain for Baptist' March of Dimes and Relay for Life teams and nominated by his employer for the Black Achievers Award, which he received in 2000.

James also serves as co-chairman of the Interdenominational Male Voices Scholarship Fund, which helps high school students with college funding and victims who have been displaced from their homes due to fire.

In his free time, James loves traveling, re-building Old Street Rods and spending time with his family.



District 16 Dr. Kimathi William Doss

Born in Anaconda Montana in 1968; Dr. Doss finished high school in Montana and continued his education at Montana State where he graduated with a BS in business management and a BS in microbiology. He played basketball in both High School and college.

After graduation, he managed and supervised a clinical diagnostic lab at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center for 3 years; during which he decided to pursue a career in medicine at Cincinnati Medical School and graduated in 2002. Following this career, he completed a 7 year neurosurgical residency followed by a spine fellowship at the University of Louisville Medical School. In 2008 he accepted a job with Norton Neurosurgical Institute in 2008 where he currently practices.

He is married to Misty Jones, a self-employed nurse anesthetist; the father of two beautiful daughters, Kennedy and McKenzie and is an avid golfer, a member of the Louisville Boat Club and recently taken up tennis.

Councilman reed accepted the award on his behalf.



District 17 Georgetta Smith

Georgetta Smith was born, raised, worked and educated in Louisville. She holds an Associate's degree from Jefferson Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Louisville. She was employed by the American Red Cross as Coordinator for Blood Services in 1982 retiring from that organization in 1995.

After retirement from the American Red Cross, she remained with the organization, as a Volunteer in the same capacity and She frequently volunteers to "work the bloodmobile"; to assist donor registration and support the nursing staff.

She became a volunteer for the Kentucky Center for the Arts' one year after its grand opening, while maintaining her role with the American Red Cross. For thirty years, she has worked many performances. You may have seen her at coat check or assisting with seating location. What she most enjoys is calling other volunteers to schedule the various shows and performances and events at the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

Lastly, she has devoted 11 years volunteering at the Louisville International Airport (LIA) information booth while still maintaining her roles at the Red Cross and Kentucky Center for the Arts. Many of our military personnel passing through have spent time chatting with Georgetta while they wait for their next flight. For her outstanding service contribution at the airport, she received the 2010 Louisville International Airport's ROSE AWARD

When asked why she volunteers, Georgetta simply said, "I love people and love talking with them." Georgetta's volunteering keeps her active and in touch with the people in the community.



District 18 Richard Curry

Richard L. Curry is a gentleman who is invested and dedicated to serving the Church and community. He is a Real Estate Owner, Property Manager and is dedicated to being an active community Leader. Prior to establishing his current Property Manager business, Richard spent 35 years as a production Supervisor, Production Engineer, and Purchasing Manager with the General Electric Company.

Richard is extremely active in the Church and is passionate about working with men to develop alternate positive productive behaviors; helping men to maximize life skills after having been incarcerated, and assisting them with drug recovery.

Richard currently serves as the Director of the Village Learning & Development Center's After School and Inner City Summer Day Camp. These programs serve 150 - 200 children from low income and working class families in West Louisville, providing them with academic improvements in reading, math and writing skills along with life development skills. Richard mentors parents of the children in these programs to achieve their own education development to grade level, in the Jefferson County Public School system.

Richard also coordinates the community food assistance program to families and children, Kid's Café', which partners with Dare to Care and providing over 40 neighborhood children a healthy meal and safe environment for weekly activities.; and, assists the Kentucky Harvest food program, which serves families with food assistance weekly.

Richard is married and blessed with 5 children and 14 grandchildren



District 19 Laverne Davis

Laverne Davis is a longtime resident of Berrytown, a neighborhood located in Eastern Jefferson County. She has two adult children, four grandchildren, which she proudly boasts about all having received their college degrees, and two great-grandchildren.

Laverne has served in numerous leadership roles and various boards including the president of the Berrytown-Griffytown Improved Organization (BGIO) for over 25 years; the chairman of the Berrytown-Griffytown Summer Festival in Berrytown Park; member of J. B. Tinsley Senior Board and the Jefferson County Community Developer and Neighborhood Developer boards. Mrs. Davis worked closely with the Urban Renewal Commission in order to provide programs to restore and rehab houses, pave roads and make sure all residents had necessary utilities.

Mrs. Davis and the neighborhood's most recent programs were the Kids Café, and Dare to Care neighborhood vegetable program. Ten years of much effort, her greatest accomplishment was a grant to secure a recreational building, formerly the YMCA and most recently named Metro Parks Berrytown Recreation Center. Mrs. Davis was the chairman of the Berrytown YMCA for ten years.

Laverne Davis gives much thanks for the strong backing of the BGIO organization and the community. A plaque is displayed on the front of the recreation center recognizing her hard work and dedication.



District 20 Kellie R. Watson

Kellie R. Watson is the General Counsel for Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville Metro. She is responsible for all legal matters within the Office of the Mayor. She is also the Liaison between Mayor Fischer and Louisville Metro Councilmembers. Kellie was the Chair of the Ohio River Bridges Project Team. She was also the Director of the Human Resources Department for Louisville Metro Government. Prior to these positions, she was the Director of the Office of Human Resource Management/Acting Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Director of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission for several years, and under Mayor Dave Armstrong, she was the Director of the Office of Affirmative Action.

Kellie is a member of the Kentucky and Louisville Bar Associations; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc, of which serves as the Executive Board Chair of Beta Alpha Xi Zeta Chapter and the Legislative Liaison of the Derby City Chapter of Jack and Jill Inc. Past memberships include Ignite Louisville, Young Professionals Association of Louisville, and Louisville Urban League Young Professionals.

Kellie received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science/Policy Analysis from the University of Louisville and a Juris Doctorate degree from Vanderbilt University.

Kellie is a native of Louisville, KY and the mother of one son.



District 21 Coach Chris Peters

Born to Clifton and Vanessa Peters, Christopher is the middle son between Clifton and Corey Peters. Originally born in Pennsylvania, Mississippi became home at a very early age. Rural Mississippi provided minimal diversity regarding school choices, so the move to Louisville Kentucky during his sophomore year was quite eye-opening. “Academic excellence” was always stressed in the home while participation in community and extra- curricular sports was encouraged. The rule was: Once you start, you complete, quitting is not an option.

At Central Mr. Peters lettered in 4 sports (Baseball, Track, Basketball, & Wrestling) as well as Graduated as the salutatorian of his class with a 3.98 GPA. He earned full academic scholarships at several universities as well as a Baseball scholarship to Florida A&M University. Even though the college choice was difficult, University of Louisville was chosen and Mr. Peters graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Business Management with a minor in marketing. After graduating he started a real estate company but even with mild success it left him feeling like he was selling himself short and not living up to his true calling.

After a year in the field He decided to try his hand as a teacher and fell in love with the profession. As he was wrapping up his 1st year in the classroom the principal approached him and asked him to consider coaching their football program. After much consideration and tons of reservations, he eventually conceded and became the Head Football Coach at Noe Middle school where he built a program that was considered as one of the top 10 programs throughout the state. This experience shaped and defined his mantra: “football has the power to leverage student athletes, shape character, provide an ethical foundation and provide opportunities through education”. The initial Noe football class are currently seniors with twelve accepted into post- secondary programs and four earning football scholarships.

Many sacrifices are made by Christopher’s wife, Keishia and sons Caden and Cashton during the fall of each year but they too understand that to whom much is given, much is required.



District 22 Tim Long

Mr. Long Born in Washington, DC he attended college at Cal State Monterey, in California, (while there, Tim was very influential in the success of their championship football team);, he attended Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee where he continued to play football.

Mr. Long left college early to pursue a professional football career which he began by joining the New York Jets. Mr. Long would return to Lane College finishing his Bachelor Degree in Education.

After years of playing football and relocating to Louisville, Tim began a career in coaching. While at Brook hospital he assisted youth in several capacities from mental health to helping with youth counseling and treatment. He has always been a beacon of light when it comes to mentoring the youth.

MR. Long has tried to be a prominent male role model with young men that were lacking one. He not only coaches or mentors young men in football, bet he takes a genuine interest in their well-being as well. Mr. Long's kindness, love and generosity extends from his job and mentoring efforts to his family. He courted his college sweetheart, Ruby, for seventeen years until they married in July 2016. Tim is a father of five; four girls and one boy, and is a strong force in their lives, He unselfishly gives his time to everyone in his life and somehow manages to also take care of his mother, who is in remission from cancer and his mother-in-law as well.



District 23 Major Michael Bogan

Major Michael Bogan is currently assigned as the Commander of the Louisville Metro Police Department's Seventh Division.

In November 1999, he began his career in law enforcement with the former Jefferson County Police Department (JCPD) serving as a patrol officer from 2000 to 2005. In November 2005, he served in the Training Division, first as a member of the In-Service Training Unit and then as a member of the Basic Training Unit, where he taught use of force techniques along with de-escalation.

In June 2013, Bogan was promoted to Sergeant and served in the First Division, Professional Standards Unit (PSU) and the Public Integrity Unit (PIU). Promoted to Lieutenant in December 2015 he served in the Ninth Mobile and Third Divisions.

Major Bogan is a graduate of the University of Louisville, where he played football from 1994 through 1997. He received a Bachelor of Science in Justice Administration in May 1999. In November 2015, he completed the Administrative Officers Course from the Southern Police Institute.

Major Bogan is married with three (3) children



District 24 Earlena Sledge

Earlena Sledge is a student at Southern High School and she is committed to serving others. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club; and is a leader in both the classroom and throughout the school.

She is a star athlete on the cheerleading team and has conquered this while maintaining a 4.0 throughout her years. She was recognized as a scholastic award winner for this devotion and is expecting to graduate early, in three years, due to her dedication and persistence.

Her main inspiration is from her single-parent mother, who encouraged her every day to use her talents to the fullest. Earlena grew up not having a lot but made the best of things with love and encouragement. She has a one track mind to succeed, no matter the situation and will never let anything change that. She hopes to inspire others to follow this path and never give up because hard work does pay off.

Earlena is a focused individual and is a model for young women of tomorrow. It is no coincidence she is graduating early while maintaining a 4.0. She set high standards for herself and made her dream come true.

After she graduates, she will continue her education at the University of Kentucky and will pursue a degree in the medical field.

Good Luck Earlena! We are proud you are a citizen in District 24



District 25 Major Frank Hardison

Major Frank Hardison began his law enforcement career with the Jefferson County's Sheriff's Office in 1994. Three years later he joined the former Jefferson County Police Department and is currently assigned as the Commander of the Third Division.

His area of public safety service is Southwest Metro Louisville, which is 82 square miles and serves approximately 120,000 residents.

He is also a veteran of the United States Army, and Dean's List graduate of the Southern Police Institute's (SPI) Administrative Officer's Course at the University of Louisville.

Through his 20 plus years in law enforcement he has been community minded in his service, some examples are: Dare/Life Skills Instructor in the Public and Private School Systems of Louisville

Division Resource Community Officer ;JCPS Everyone Reads Program

In addition to his community service, Major Hardison has facilitated and directed many community focused meetings and forums throughout the city, addressing such topics as: 21st Century Policing; School and Work Place Safety; and, Drug Abuse and Prevention



District 26 Rev. Meredith Trabue and Rose Trabue

Reverend Meredith L. Trabue is a native of Louisville. He is a graduate of Central High School and the University of Louisville which he attended on a football scholarship. He received his divinity degree from Simmons Bible College, now Simmons University. He has pastored the Main Street Baptist Church in New Castle, Kentucky for over 40 years and previously received the Mentor of the Year Award from Mayor Jerry Abramson in the Louisville Partnership for Youth Program.

His wife, Rose Trabue, is a native of New Castle, Kentucky where she graduated from Henry County High School. She is a licensed beautician and a member of the Main Street Baptist Church in New Castle. Both she and Reverend Trabue are retired from the Capital Holding Corporation in Louisville, now a part of the Transamerica Corporation.

They have been married over 35 years and have three daughters, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Councilman Ackerson is proud to have them as residents of the 26th District in the Hikes Point neighborhood.



Special Community Honoree:
National Hook-up of Black Women. Inc.
Louisville Chapter

Since our inception in January 2014, the LOUISVILLE Chapter of the National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. (NHBW, Inc.) strives to live our Mission Statement: To improve the lives of families through support of the arts, culture, health, wellness, education and human service programs. It collaborates with other organizations, agencies, and community leaders to fulfill our national mandate to be advocates for women and their families.

Currently, the group is engaged in multiple initiatives to aide in strengthening our community, such as: mentoring programs at Minor Daniels Academy and Newburg Middle School; Teens Overcoming Pressure Programs, creating reading rooms, participating in local Peace Walks, Festivals, Voter Rights Awareness and supporting reentry programs.

They initiated a "Touch 20" letter writing campaign to advocate for the return home of the missing Nigerian Girls and partnered with area child care providers to help promote early childhood education. We initiated and are committed to continued collaboration with the local Center for Women and Families (CWF), to help empower survivors of domestic violence.

As a tribute to the establishment of the organization, annual meetings are held in hotels across the country around the birthdate of Dr. Boswell. In April 2016, the Louisville Chapter, proudly hosted the 41st Annual NHBW, Inc. meeting at the beautiful historical Seelbach Hilton Hotel. Ladies from across the United States were excited to visit the childhood state of our founder; and the opportunity to visit where she spent her formative years, the now Whitney M. Young Job Corps Center.



Special Youth Honoree:
Shan'Taya Cowan

Shan'Taya Cowan is an eighteen year old Fairdale High School Senior and the first student ever, at this school, to be accepted to Harvard University! She is also the first family member to attend college.

Shan'Taya was accepted to other schools, including Howard University, her “dream school since the 9th grade, but chose Harvard because of numerous opportunities for various study grants, both abroad and in research; in addition to available financial aid and Harvard’s advisory team of academic professionals and peer mentors.

In addition to maintaining a full schedule with high school classes and classes at JCTC, she manages to work thirty hours per week, serve on the Mayor’s Youth Advisor Board and tutor a student once a week.

Shan'Taya plans to become a criminal defense attorney; and, after completion of her undergraduate years, she aspires to becoming a Rhodes Scholar or joining the Peace Corps; attending law school, working at a law firm and eventually having her own law practice. She also plans to study political science and African American studies at Harvard.

Shan'Taya, who enjoys writing poetry, hanging out with friends and going to movies, lives in the Shawnee neighborhood with her mother, Denise Cowan, and her older brother Darion. Although her father Alfonso is currently incarcerated, she credits him with being a big motivator in her life and inspiring her to be a better person striving to reach her own potential. Seeing her mother’s struggles as a single parent has always been a trigger for Shan'Taya to do better and work harder.

She credits her teachers and counselors with making her realize that education is a gateway to opportunity. Her message for students who may be struggling to believe that education is key is “don’t give up.” “There were times when I thought I was never going to get this. Why me, I’m broken, I’m not capable enough to actually go there? I just want them to know, don’t give up!”